

## SPRING/ SUMMER 2008

Welcome to BCHRC's Spring/Summer 2008 newsletter. Our aim is to keep all of you informed of progress at Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre, and to let you know about current and up and coming activities and projects you might like to become involved with.



### **Their Past Your Future**

BCHRC and SWSHAS have made a joint application to the Museums Libraries and Archives agency in London for grant funding. This will be used to enable BCHRC to work alongside SWSHAS's successful and popular Michaelmas Fair exhibition, which this year is entitled "Keep the Homes Fires Burning". We are hoping to buy digital voice recorders which can be used by the Bishop's Castle Army Cadets Force to record local people's memories of Shropshire in times of war. It will also involve training in the use of the recorders and editing software, which will then be available for future community use.



### **Bowling Club**

Plans are well under way for the Grand Opening of the Bowling Club following their renovations. A display detailing the research carried out by BCHRC on behalf of the Club will be on show together with interpretation boards and leaflets produced by BCHRC to share this research with the Club and the public. This is the culmination of many months work both for the Bowling Club and for BCHRC's researchers.

### **Would you sponsor a shelf?**

The House on Crutches Museum stores its reserve collection at BCHRC at a cost of £20 per shelf per annum, and is currently looking for sponsors to pay for a shelf for a year. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Sally on 630007 or BCHRC on 630556.

### **Forging Links**



A surprise visitor to one of our Talks in the Town Hall was Mr John Groome from Oswestry, who made himself known to us and told us about his collection of documents relating to his grandfather Thomas Henry George, proprietor of the Castle Hotel and Mayor of Bishop's Castle in the early twentieth century. We invited Mr Groome to our Partners' Evening on 15 May, and he very kindly left the documents with us for copying and adding to our research collection.

The documents include an article and other papers and photographs relating to Mr George's mayoralty, and also detailed inventories of sales at the Castle Hotel and Castle Hotel Farm (sic) following Mr George's death in 1917, as well as share certificates from the Bishop's Castle Electric Light & Power Co Ltd. Mr Groome also attended the Mayor Making in Bishop's Castle on 27 May.

### **Out and About**



BCHRC was pleased to be asked to have a presence at Montgomery Genealogical Society's launch of their publication of memorial inscriptions for the parishes of Mainstone and Lydham at the Church Barn on 1 March. Many inhabitants of Mainstone attended and they made a considerable contribution to the information being exchanged at this event. We were also delighted to make contact with Sue Pryce of Alcester, who is researching the Miss Walkers of Linley, and came to the Centre in April to further her researches.



### **Volunteers Wanted**

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our enthusiastic and friendly team, and we are delighted that Rosemary Sandland has joined us at BCHRC. Rosemary has recently moved into town and has previously worked in a number of jobs, including office work at Boulton's Coaches. She is helping with administrative tasks, including managing the membership list for the new Family

History Group. Many thanks to Judith Payne, our volunteer Outreach Co-ordinator, for the introduction



### **Volunteer News**

On 18 March many of the BCHRC volunteers met for lunch at the Three Tuns. It was good to meet up and share experiences of our work at BCHRC.



### **Family History Group**

A self-help Family History Group started at BCHRC on 3 May and is planned to run every Saturday morning from 10 –12. The group will not do the research for you, but will point you in the right direction, and a series of talks and get-togethers to share information and hints are planned for the Autumn. Founder members are Bernard Edwards of BCHRC, Revd. Paul Collins, Revd. Graham Lloyd, chairman of BCHRC and a guest he brought

from Montgomery Genealogical Society, David Peate, who we are very grateful to for his support and advice.

Membership of the group is just £5 a year, and we already have 12 members on board.



### **Partners' Evening**

Our Partners' evening on 15 May was a very enjoyable occasion, and Richard Newcombe gave an entertaining talk on the history of the Bishop's Castle Railway, followed by food and drink supplied by BCHRC volunteers.



### **New depositors at BCHRC**

Among the new deposits that came into BCHRC in 2007 was the weathercock from the church tower of St John the Baptist at Bishop's Castle, which was replaced as part of the renovations.

This magnificent weathercock is made of wood, possibly covered with lead, and shows evidence both of coppersing and possible gilding.

### **Talks in the Town Hall 2008**

The topic for the Talks in the Town Hall in early 2008 was trades and professions and started with a very entertaining talk by Drs Penney and Howell with the intriguing title "50 years. So what has changed?" they gave many insights into medical practice in the past 50 years.

Our second talk by Edward Owen asked the question "To farm or not to farm?" and addressed the challenges and difficulties facing farmers in the current climate. While talking with humour and giving a lively and enjoyable talk, he made many serious and hard hitting points and gave his audience ample food for thought

**To find out more about Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre please contact:**

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*(Please leave message on answer machine when Centre is not staffed)* for information on

Hire of facilities & resources Education & Outreach materials

Storage at BCHRC Opportunities for research

Helping at the centre Affiliation